

Arizona State Geospatial Coordination Strategic and Business Plan Project

Proposal Summary

a. Applicant Organization

Arizona State Cartographer's Office
Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

b. Collaborating Organizations

Arizona Geographic Information Council
Arizona State Land Department
State Cartographer's Office
Arizona Land Resources Information System
State Forester's Office GIS Section
Arizona State University
USGS State Liaison

c. Organization Internet Address

<http://sco.az.gov>

d. Relevant National Digital Geospatial Clearinghouse Node Address

Website Web URL: <http://sdfsnet.snr.arizona.edu>
Host Name: grotto.snr.arizona.edu
Host IP: 128.196.156.169.

e. Key Project Contact

Eugene Trobia
Arizona State Cartographer's Office
302-542-3190
gtrobia@land.az.gov

f. Other Key Contact Personnel

Timothy Smothers President, Arizona Geographic Information Council 623-773-7671 TimS@peoriaaz.com	Tom Sturm Liaison for Arizona US Geological Survey 650-329-4326 tsturm@usgs.gov	Gary Irish ALRIS GIS Manager Arizona State Land Department 602-542-2605 girish@land.az.gov
Jana Hutchins GIServices Manager Arizona State University 480-965-9709 jana.hutchins@asu.edu	Jason Howard Assistant State Cartographer AZ State Cartographer's Office 602-542-3249 jhoward@land.az.gov	Glen Buettner GIS Manager Arizona State Forester's Office 602-771-1410 gbuettner@azstatefire.org
Shea Lemar GIServices Project Manager Arizona State University 480-965-1205 shea.lemar@asu.edu		

g. Geographic Scope

State of Arizona

h. Previous CAP Participation

Cooperative Agreement Number 1434-HQ-97-AG-01870

i. Concise Project Description (*limit 200 words*)

The proposed Arizona State Geospatial Coordination Strategic and Business Plan Project will be a collaborative effort between the Arizona State Cartographer's Office (SCO), the Arizona Land Resources information System (ALRIS), the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC), Arizona State University's GIServices, and the USGS Arizona State Liaison. The objective of this project is to develop both strategic and business plans that will address the coordination of geospatial activities between AGIC, SCO, ALRIS and others while also identifying and prioritizing key geospatial initiatives contributing to the National Spatial Database Infrastructure. Both plans will provide recommendations to address political and logistical constraints that hinder effective statewide geospatial coordination and data sharing. The most significant restraint is statutory language that does not allow 'gifting' of state resources and prevents public domain access to State geospatial data holdings in all forms. Other major items include limitations imposed by the AGIC organizational structure, the need for a stronger relationship with the State CIO, as well as a lack of stable funding to support geospatial projects and initiatives.

1. Project Scope

a. Existing Geospatial Coordination Activities

ALRIS and SCO

Existing statewide geospatial coordination activities are primarily the responsibility of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC), the Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS) and the Arizona State Cartographer's Office (SCO). ALRIS and the SCO are the only State organizations whose purpose related to statewide GIS and geospatial data policy is mandated in statute (ARS 37-173). Many operational activities identified by AGIC are performed by ALRIS and the SCO. ALRIS and the SCO develop work plans to be consistent with each other as part of the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) annual budget process and the five year ASLD IT Work Plan. ALRIS and SCO attempt to address AGIC issues but existing work plans do not necessarily incorporate AGIC requirements in a comprehensive manner. Concerns remain about how to best integrate policy and coordination aspects of AGIC with the operational capabilities of SCO and ALRIS.

AGIC

AGIC was created in 1989 by Executive Order #89-24. The Council serves as an advisory body to the Governor's Office regarding State GIS policy, coordination and geospatial data development issues. AGIC is a public body and is therefore subject to open meeting laws as defined under Arizona Revised Statutes. While these laws assure equitable participation by interested parties, they are a constraint when dealing with the operational issues of coordinating GIS and geospatial activities. AGIC is adept in organizing high-level coordination, but faces challenges with activity implementation.

The existing AGIC Strategic Plan was written in 1992 and has only seen minor revisions since that time. Comprehensive updates to the Strategic Plan have not been attempted due to lack of dedicated resources. The current AGIC Strategic Plan does not adequately address overcoming statutory restrictions to data access, enterprise GIS, data discovery and sharing, web-based GIS applications and services, the integration of geospatial activities between federal, state, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions.

The Board's most recent planning effort led to the production of Mapping Arizona 2005. Mapping Arizona 2005 is a document intended to explain GIS to major officials and decision makers of the State. It identifies major initiatives of AGIC, ALRIS and the SCO, gives examples of GIS uses throughout Arizona and identifies the objectives and major activities of AGIC Committees. The ongoing update to Mapping Arizona only addresses the highest priority initiatives and is not intended to produce a strategic or business plan for the Council.

Although AGIC meets many of the 9 criteria of the Fifty States Initiative there are some items that need to be addressed:

- improving the formal relationship with the State CIO,
- identifying and gaining the support of a champion to be involved in coordination activities,
- identifying and assigning the responsibilities to develop a State Clearinghouse,
- improving coordination with and participation of regional, local and tribal government, and
- obtaining sustainable funding to meet projected needs.

b. Proposed Strategic and Business Plan Development

There is a need to utilize the criteria in the Fifty States Initiative to update the AGIC Strategic Plan. An updated Strategic Plan would clarify the responsibilities of AGIC, SCO, ALRIS and other organizations in order to improve Arizona's statewide coordination capabilities. Additionally, there is a need to update and revise AGIC Mapping Arizona 2005 into a Business Plan. An AGIC Business Plan would identify and prioritize initiatives to improve Arizona's ability to contribute to the development of a strong NSDI.

Key project activities include the following items.

- Strategic Plan Development Activities
 - Review existing AGIC Strategic Plan to determine if components or concepts should be carried over into the new plan.
 - Develop approaches toward current issues that are important and have not been addressed, such as a statutory restrictions to data access and improving the relationship with the state CIO
 - Review appropriate portions of Mapping Arizona 2005 for strategic initiatives related to current statewide coordination projects and activities.
 - Determine compliance with the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative and develop strategies for improvement.
 - Identify strengths and weaknesses of AGIC, SCO, and ALRIS state coordination capabilities
 - Develop a strategy to address the highest priority issues.
 - Review and update AGIC mission and purpose
 - Produce Strategic Plan document
- Develop 2006 Business Plan
 - Identify major items that need to be addressed from the new Strategic Plan including actions that would address at least 50% of the compliance gaps with the Fifty States Initiative.
 - Prioritize current statewide coordination projects and activities and incorporate strategies for phased development or improvement for critical items.
 - Produce Business Plan document

The new Strategic Plan would address strengthening the ability of AGIC, ALRIS and SCO to coordinate statewide GIS initiatives. These initiatives include: improving coordination of development and maintenance of geospatial data, improving geospatial data discovery, access and use, increasing participation in national geospatial data programs, and establishing sustainable funding mechanisms. The Strategic Plan would also identify how to meet the Fifty States Initiative and contribute to the development of the NSDI and the NGPO Action Plan.

2. Skills and Capabilities

- Eugene Trobia has been the Arizona State Cartographer since 1996 and has over twenty-two years experience in GIS. Gene is a past president of the Arizona Geographic Information Council and the National States Geographic Information Council and is very active in Arizona GIS coordination and data development activities. Eugene Trobia was the Principal Investigator and recipient of a 1997 FGDC CAP award for "Establishing an Arizona Node on the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse." That project was successfully conducted and completed. The Arizona Node is still in operation and searchable.

- Jana Hutchins is the manager of GIServices Core at ASU, and has over 10 years experience managing the centralized GIS unit at the University. Additionally, as President of AGIC in 2000, Jana oversaw the updates to the AGIC Strategic Plan.
- Jason Howard is GIS Analyst at the Arizona State Cartographer's Office and is responsible for staffing the Arizona Geographic Information Council, developing the AGIC GeoData Portal, Arizona Imagery and SDE Server, and the Arizona Map viewer.
- Tom Sturm is the USGS Arizona State Liaison. He has represented the USGS on the Arizona Geographic Information Council since 1999 and is the incoming Council President.
- Gary Irish is ALRIS GIS Manager at the Arizona State Land Department, Treasurer of the Arizona Geographic Information Council, and a member of the Arizona State CIO Council. He has been actively involved in coordination of GIS in Arizona for 19 years. He is also GIS manager of the Arizona State Land Department, responsible for the Department Enterprise GIS.
- Tim Smothers is the City of Peoria GIS Manager and President of AGIC. Tim has been working in the realm of municipal GIS operations for over 16 years, 10 years dedicated to the management, development, integration, and deployment of GIS at the local level. Tim is an AGIC Past President and has been active with AGIC since 1998 and has promoted collaboration in the Arizona geospatial community since his arrival to the state in 1996.
- Glen Buettner is the GIS Manager for the State Forestry Division of the Arizona State Land Department, project manager for the Arizona FIREMAP, and a proponent of local, regional, and national data sharing and integration. As a former staff member of the State Cartographer's Office, Glen coordinated the development of Mapping Arizona 2005 and supported statewide GIS coordination efforts of the SCO and AGIC.
- Members of the Arizona Geographic Information Council Board are involved in GIS and geospatial data development from State, county, local, federal, and the private sector. Time volunteered to this project by the Board is not included in the in-kind contribution figures of this proposal.

3. **Commitment to Effort**

The primary participants in this project are members of the Arizona Geographic Information Council Board or the Arizona State Land Department, Arizona State Cartographer's Office, and ALRIS. AGIC is established in Executive Order 89-24. As stated in the Executive Order, AGIC is established "to coordinate the management of statewide geographic information" and "provide guidance and direction in the management of State Geographic Information Systems." Furthermore, AGIC is directed to coordinate interagency acquisition of geographic database development, to study geographic information systems issues and make recommendations to responsible entities, and prioritize and relate such requirements to USGS, ALRIS, and other producers of geographic information.

AGIC has been the primary active forum for statewide GIS policy and geospatial data development in Arizona. ALRIS and the State Cartographer's Office comprise the Resource Analysis Division (RAD) of the Arizona State Land Department. RAD is established in ARS 37-173. Section 8 of this statute directs RAD to "[e]stablish a liaison relationship within the Arizona geological survey, the United States geological survey, regional federal mapping organizations and other state and local government organizations in order to coordinate activities in this state relating to collecting, compiling, producing and processing cartographic materials, satellite imagery, and land resource information," as well as "[i]dentify local digital cartographic data to include in the national digital cartographic data base."

AGIC, SCO, and ALRIS are all mandated and committed to effective statewide GIS coordination and building a robust NSDI. AGIC and the SCO participate in the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and fully support the NSDI Fifty States Initiative. All these agencies are stable fixtures of state government and receive annual funding. In addition, SCO and ALRIS are responsible for staff support for AGIC. Participant letters of support are included in this proposal (See Attachment F: Letters of Support). Information regarding the titles, organizations, roles, and commitments are included in Attachment B: Summary of In-kind Staff Hours by Task, Attachment D: Contract Hours by Task (In-kind and Charges), Attachment E: Budget Breakdown, and Attachment F: Letters of Support.

It should be noted that the manager of our contracts, through Intergovernmental Agreement, is contributing, rather than charging, her time toward the project. Further, the combined in-kind contributions exceed 100% match and this does not include time donated to the project by other members of the AGIC Board. Please see item “b” of this proposal for a list of collaborating organizations.

4. Organizational and Managerial Capacity

a. Management Plan for Proposed Activity

The Arizona State Cartographer’s Office (SCO) is established in State Statute and has the authority to staff AGIC, improve access to geospatial data, establish geospatial standard and coordinate projects. The SCO is a section of the Resource Analysis Division (RAD) in the Arizona State Land Department and as such has the ability to enter into contracts and utilize the RAD Revolving Fund, which is a non-lapsing fund that can receive and expend funds. The Management Plan is identified in Attachment A: Project Schedule, Attachment B: Summary of In-kind Staff Hours and Schedule, Attachment C: In-kind Staff Hours by Task, Attachment D: Contractor Hours by Task (In-kind and Charges), and Attachment E: Budget Breakdown. These attachments outline the critical tasks, schedule, and resources required for a management plan for the proposed activity.

b. Applicant Managerial Experience

Eugene Trobia was the Project Manager of the countywide GIS program for Pima County, Arizona and has been project manager on a number of projects including the Establishment of an Arizona Metadata Clearinghouse Node, the Arizona Cadastral Integration Project and the Arizona FIRE MAP. Gene is currently managing the Arizona Imagery Project, the ASU Imagery and SDE Server Project and coordinating the Arizona Height Modernization Program and the Arizona PLSS Standardization Project.

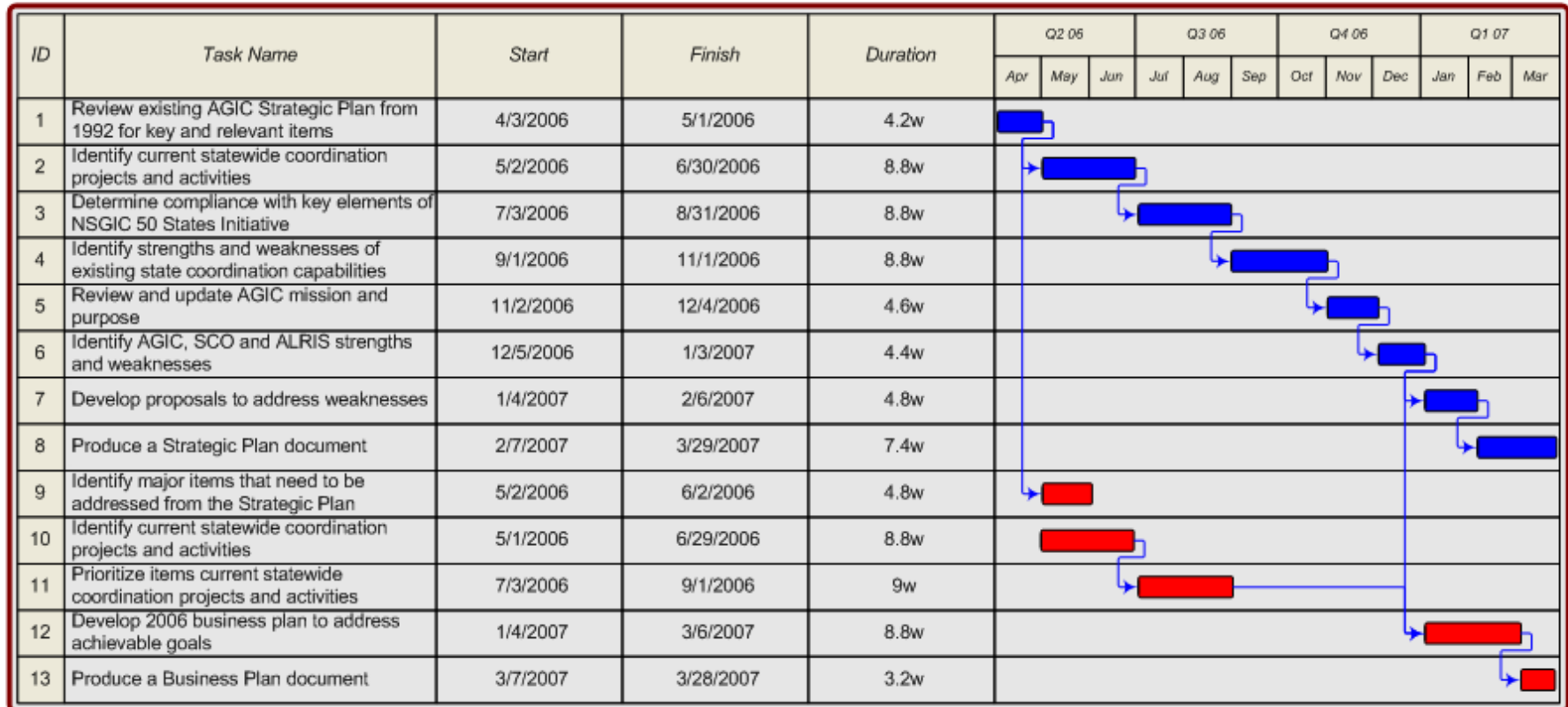
c. How Outcomes of this Project Will Fit with Existing Business Plans

ALRIS and the SCO develop work plans to be consistent with each other as part of the ASLD budget process and the five year ASLD IT Work Plan. ALRIS and SCO attempt to address AGIC issues, but the existing work plans do not necessarily incorporate AGIC requirements in a comprehensive manner. Development of a Strategic Plan and Business Plan for AGIC will take into account existing ALRIS and SCO work plan initiatives and objectives and integrate them to the greatest degree possible.

d. Anticipated Benefits

Development of a Strategic Plan and a Business Plan for AGIC will define objectives and goals to strengthen the ability of AGIC to perform statewide geospatial coordination. Specific benefits include developing agreements and procedures to better access and share geospatial data within Arizona and with national initiatives such as *The National Map* and Geospatial One Stop, participation with the Arizona State CIO and NGPO in the development of geospatial Enterprise Architecture, establishing a State Clearinghouse that integrates the functions of metadata, data and IMS capabilities, identifying and establishing stable funding to meet projected needs.

Attachment A: Project Schedule



 Strategic Plan
 Business Plan

Attachment B: Summary of In-kind Staff Hours and Schedule

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Strategic Plan Tasks												
Review existing AGIC Strategic Plan from 1992 for key and relevant items	32											
	8											
	8											
Review appropriate portions of 2005 Mapping Arizona for strategic initiatives and identify current statewide coordination projects and activities		72										
		48										
		8										
Determine compliance with key elements of the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative				56								
				16								
				8								
Identify strengths and weaknesses of AGIC, SCO and ALRIS state coordination capabilities						80						
						32						
						8						
Review and update AGIC mission and purpose								48				
								24				
								8				
Identify AGIC, SCO and ALRIS strengths and weaknesses									48			
									20			
									8			
Develop proposals to address weaknesses										48		
										16		
										8		

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Produce a Strategic Plan document											32	
											18	
											8	
Business Plan Tasks												
Identify major items that need to be addressed from the Strategic Plan		32										
		8										
		8										
Review Mapping Arizona 2005 to identify current statewide coordination projects and activities		64										
		48										
		8										
Prioritize items current statewide coordination projects and activities				36								
				16								
				8								
Develop 2006 business plan to address achievable geospatial data development, maintenance, access and required funding										72		
										40		
										8		
Produce a Business Plan document											32	
											18	
											8	

Description	Hours	Rate	Cost
Managerial Staff	652	\$60.00	\$39,120.00
Professional Staff	312	\$40.00	\$12,480.00
ASU Staff	104	\$42.00	\$4,368.00
TOTAL			\$55,968.00

Attachment C: In-kind Staff Hours by Task

	Managerial Staff			Professional Staff		Contract Staff	
	Gene Trobia	Gary Irish	Timothy Smothers	Jason Howard	Glen Buettner	Jana Hutchins	Shea Lemar
Strategic Plan Tasks							
Review existing AGIC Strategic Plan from 1992 for key and relevant items	12	12	8	8	0	8	0
Review appropriate portions of 2005 Mapping Arizona for strategic initiatives and identify current statewide coordination projects and activities	24	24	24	24	24	8	0
Determine compliance with key elements of the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative	32	16	8	16	0	8	0
Identify strengths and weaknesses of AGIC, SCO and ALRIS state coordination capabilities	32	32	16	16	16	8	0
Review and update AGIC mission and purpose	16	16	16	16	8	8	0
Identify AGIC, SCO and ALRIS strengths and weaknesses	16	16	16	16	4	8	0
Develop proposals to address weaknesses	16	16	16	8	8	8	0
Produce a Strategic Plan document	12	12	8	12	6	8	0
Business Plan Tasks							
Identify major items that need to be addressed from the Strategic Plan	12	12	8	8	0	8	0

	Managerial Staff			Professional Staff		Contract Staff	
	Gene Trobia	Gary Irish	Timothy Smothers	Jason Howard	Glen Buettner	Jana Hutchins	Shea Lemar
Review Mapping Arizona 2005 to identify current statewide coordination projects and activities	24	24	16	24	24	8	0
Prioritize items current statewide coordination projects and activities	12	12	12	12	4	8	0
Develop 2006 business plan to address achievable geospatial data development, maintenance, access and required funding	24	24	24	24	16	8	0
Produce a Business Plan document	12	12	8	12	6	8	0
Individual Totals	244	228	180	196	116	104	0
		Managerial Staff Total Hours	652	Professional Staff Total Hours	312	Contract Staff Total Hours	104
		Managerial Staff Hourly Rate	\$60	Professional Staff Hourly Rate	\$40	Contract Staff Hourly Rate	\$42
		Managerial Staff Total Cost	\$39,120	Professional Staff Total Cost	\$12,480	Contract Staff Total Cost	\$4,368

Attachment D: Contractor Hours by Task (In-kind and Charges)

TASK	Responsible Partner	In-Kind Contribution 42 \$/hr	In-Kind Hours	Actual Charges 32 \$/hr	Actual Charges Hours	TOTAL HOURS	Total Charges
Strategic Plan							
Review existing AGIC Strategic Plan from 1992 for key and relevant items	ASU	\$336	8	\$1,280	40	48	\$1,280
Review appropriate portions of 2005 Mapping Arizona for strategic initiatives and identify current statewide coordination projects and activities	ASU and SCO	\$336	8	\$1,280	40	48	\$1,280
Determine compliance with key elements of the NSGIC Fifty States Initiative	ASU and SCO	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Identify strengths and weaknesses of AGIC, SCO and ALRIS state coordination capabilities	ASU, SCO, AGIC	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Review and update AGIC mission and purpose	ASU and AGIC	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Identify AGIC, SCO and ALRIS strengths and weaknesses	ASU	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Develop proposals to address weaknesses	ASU, SCO, AGIC	\$336	8	\$4,256	133	141	\$4,256
Produce a Strategic Plan document	ASU	\$336	8	\$4,256	133	141	\$4,256
Strategic Plan Subtotal		\$2,688	64	\$18,752	586	650	\$18,752
Business Plan							
Identify major items that need to be addressed from the Strategic Plan	ASU and SCO	\$336	8	\$1,540	40	48	\$1,280
Review Mapping Arizona 2005 to identify current statewide coordination projects and activities	ASU and SCO	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Prioritize items current statewide coordination projects and activities	ASU, SCO, AGIC	\$336	8	\$1,920	60	68	\$1,920
Develop 2006 business plan to address achievable geospatial data development, maintenance, access and required funding	ASU, SCO, AGIC	\$336	8	\$4,256	133	141	\$4,256
Produce a Business Plan document	ASU	\$336	8	\$4,256	133	141	\$4,256
Business Plan Subtotal		\$1,680	40	\$13,892	426	466	\$13,632
ASU F&A @ 10%							\$3,238
TOTAL		\$4,368	104	\$31,364	1012	1116	\$35,622

Attachment E: Budget Breakdown

Salaries and Wages

Name	Title and Organization	Position	Role	Hourly Compensation	Total Hours	Total Cost
Gene Trobia	State Cartographer, Arizona State Cartographer's Office	GIS Manager	Managerial Staff	\$60	244	\$14,640
Gary Irish	ALRIS GIS Manager, Arizona State Land Department	GIS Manager	Managerial Staff	\$60	228	\$13,680
Timothy Smothers	GIS Coordinator, City of Peoria	GIS Manager	Managerial Staff	\$60	180	\$10,800
Jason Howard	Assistant State Cartographer, Arizona State Cartographer's Office	Senior GIS Analyst	Professional Staff	\$40	196	\$7,840
Glen Buettner	GIS Manager, Arizona State Forester's Office	GIS Analyst	Professional Staff	\$40	116	\$4,640
Jana Hutchins	GIServices Core Manager, Arizona State University	GIS Manager	Contract Staff	\$42	104	\$4,368
Shea Lemar	GIServices Core Staff, Arizona State University	GIS Analyst	Contract Staff	\$42	0	\$0
					Total Salaries and Wages	\$55,968

Field Expenses

Description				Cost
Travel to NSGIC Midyear for Jason Howard				\$1,600
	Itemized travel expenses	Airline	\$572	
		Hotel	\$575	
		Per Diem	\$228	
		Registration	\$225	
				Total Field Expenses

Other Direct Costs

Description		Cost
GIS Services Core		\$35,622
Printing for Strategic Plan and Business Plan		\$3,500
	Total Other Direct Costs	\$39,122
Total Direct Charges (includes in-kind contributions)		\$96,690

Indirect Charges

Description		Cost
Rate of 17.78% is based on Arizona State Land Department FY06 agreement with US Department of Agriculture.		\$9,174
Total Indirect Charges		\$9,174

TOTAL CHARGES \$105,864

**Attachment F:
Letters Of Support**

- Timothy Smothers, Arizona Geographic Information Council President
GIS Supervisor, City of Peoria
- Gary Irish, Arizona Land Resources Information Manager
Arizona Geographic Information Council Treasurer
- Jana Hutchins, Arizona State University GIServices Core Manager
- Glen Buettner, State Forester's Office GIS Section Manager
- Tom Sturm, USGS, Arizona State Liaison
Arizona Geographic Information Council President-Elect

Note: Signed copies of Support Letters are included in the hard copy submission only. Originals available upon request.

Dear Gene

As President of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC), I've been given opportunity to review your draft Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) Grant proposal for updating the states geospatial coordination. As a volunteer organization, made up of a variety of geospatial experts within Arizona, AGIC has been able to provide significant guidance to our peers within the realm of geographic information (GI). However, as your proposal outlines, our efforts have a tendency to fall short in several areas, namely the upkeep of a truly relevant strategic plan (for AGIC and the state), and parallel to this a proper business plan highlighting direction and benchmarks. We at AGIC, and I myself, a representative to the board from the municipal level (representing the League of Arizona Cities and Towns) find it increasingly important to see coordination and collaboration at higher levels. Your proposal will assist AGIC, as well as other member agencies (including federal partners), to identify direction and make recommendations and strides toward the development of a geospatial infrastructure (to include hardware/software/data standards) for the state of Arizona and its partners.

As a municipal Geospatial Professional it has become quite clear that our interests do NOT stop at the termination of our border, but rather extend well beyond. Through cooperative agreements between jurisdictions we find a need to obtain and provide various geospatial data to our neighbors, particularly in the area of disaster preparedness (hazard mitigation, mutual aid agreements). Focusing on the data, and the roles to be defined for various organizations (including AGIC) relative to the propagation and availability of the best geospatial data, this proposal will certainly be of great benefit to bring all the participants down that common road.

AGIC also understands we meet many of the criteria represented in the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Fifty (50) States Initiative, while acknowledging falling short in areas identified in your proposal for improvement with the initiation of this particular CAP project.

AGIC is pleased to support this CAP grant proposal, and will assist the State Cartographers Office in any way possible to identify and map an improved geospatial coordination and data sharing future, which provides a focus and guide for our future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J Smothers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy J. Smothers, President
AGIC Executive Management Board
GIS Supervisor – City of Peoria, Arizona

ion

January 24, 2006

Gene Trobia
Arizona State Cartographer
1616 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

This letter is in support of the "Arizona State Geospatial Coordination Strategic and Business Plan Project" submitted under the 2006 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program by the Arizona State Cartographer's Office (SCO). I believe that SCO's proposal will allow the State of Arizona to significantly upgrade its geospatial data and systems coordination efforts to modernize our State's efforts to cooperate in the development of geospatial data and systems within Arizona and between Arizona and the federal government.

Arizona was an early innovator in the developing coordination mechanisms with the development of a GIS service center, the Arizona Land Resources Information System (ALRIS) in the early 1980's, the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) in 1989 and the Arizona State Cartographer's Office in 1996. The development of AGIC's strategic plan in 1992 was a large step forward and some of the issues delineated by that plan were successfully addressed but others still linger.

Since the 1992 plan, very little has been accomplished to modernize the State's geospatial strategic and business plans. Unfortunately due to development of GIS in more operational modes in state and local government agencies, the AGIC members and the SCO and ALRIS staff have had very little opportunity to provide a thorough examination of the State's geospatial development and coordination plans. What is needed is a reevaluation of approaches to address still relevant issues and more importantly to address new issues and technologies that have developed since 1992. New technologies such as web based services, open GIS systems, and high resolution digital aerial photography and new federal coordination programs to help develop the NSDI need to be addressed by the State to further the cooperative development of geospatial data and systems.

I believe that Arizona State Cartographer's proposal to upgrade Arizona's Geospatial coordination strategic and business plans will provide our state with the resources needed to develop important new strategies to address continued problems with our state's geospatial data and systems infrastructure and it's inter-organizational cooperation. This proposal will also help our state develop new strategies for addressing state impediments, as well as new technologies and coordination methods which have arisen since 1992. As one of the developer's of the 1992 plan I am painfully aware of the need to upgrade the document and move our state's geospatial planning and coordination efforts forward.

I hope that the NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program can provide assistance to Arizona's geospatial data and systems development efforts through the funding of the Arizona SCO's

proposal. If this grant is awarded to the Arizona SCO, I will participate and assist in the Arizona State Geospatial Coordination Strategic and Business Plan Project.

Sincerely,

Gary Irish
GIS Manager, Arizona State Land Department
Treasurer, Arizona Geographic Information Council



January 17, 2006
Eugene Trobia
Arizona State Cartographer's Office
Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Mr. Trobia:

I have reviewed your draft Fifty States proposal to the FGDC to establish a Strategic Plan as well as Business Plan for GIS activities and coordination in the State of Arizona. ASU appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the Arizona State Cartographer's Office, of the Arizona Geographic Information Council, to benefit other organizations in the region. It is imperative that we, in Arizona, coordinate activities between levels of government, integrate data from various producers, and make it available to the entire community of users. This project addresses statewide GIS coordination from a very high level which will support future infrastructure that is created for the purpose of sharing important spatial information as appropriate.

ASU plans to enter into an Inter Governmental Services Agreement (ISA), with the Arizona State Land Department, to partner and obtain the resources necessary to complete this project. As an AGIC Past President and manager of GIServices Core, I endorse this project. The GIServices Core is pleased to bring their experience performing State Agency GIS Needs Assessments as well their collaboration and participation with AGIC for both providing revisions to the Strategic Plan as well as providing maps for the Arizona Map.

Sincerely,

Jana Hutchins
GIServices Core Manager
Institute for Social Science Research
Arizona State University

Janet Napolitano
Governor

Kirk Rowdabaugh
State Forester

Arizona
State Land
Department
Office of the State Forester
1110 West Washington, Suite 100



January 26, 2006

Gene Trobia
Arizona State Cartographer's Office
1616 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Gene,

I applaud your efforts to pursue an enterprise GIS for Arizona and your work to develop better data availability and improved sharing of geospatial data among various levels of local, state and federal government.

As GIS Manager for Arizona State Forestry and project manager for the Arizona FIRE MAP project I see on a daily basis the growing need for better coordination of data and resources at all levels.

I look forward to assisting with your project in any way possible. Thank you for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Glen Buettner
GIS Manager
Forestry Division
Arizona State Land Department
1110 West Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602)771-1410

U.S. Geological Survey
345 Middlefield Road, MS 531
Menlo Park, CA 94025

January 25, 2006

Eugene Trobia
Arizona State Cartographer
1616 West Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Gene,

I appreciate the opportunity to be a participant in the review and development of your proposal under Program Announcement 06HQPA0007 Category 3. As a long-time member of the Arizona Geographic Information Council I have had an opportunity to grasp the strengths of the Council organization and understand our need to commit to continual improvement in order to remain effective.

In a number of critical ways we are in alignment with the objectives of the Fifty States Initiative but must find a way to focus more energy on strategic and business planning efforts as we look toward the future. This proposal provides a mechanism for meeting that need as we seek to more firmly establish sustainable sources of funding, improve connections to the State CIO, and broaden our outreach to local governments. Another large issue that I am glad to see this proposal address is the subject of data access. As you are well aware, we are in a rather unique situation in Arizona with regard to public records laws. Overcoming statutory restrictions to data access, to me, is the largest issue we face in the State of Arizona to the successful implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. If this proposal is accepted we will have the opportunity to address this challenging issue.

I look forward to working with your Office, the Arizona Geographic Information Council, and our greater community to achieve the objectives of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tom Sturm
USGS Geospatial Liaison for Arizona
NSDI Partnership Office